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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/561,742	03/23/2006	Stefan A. Jonsson	39288	5919
<div>116 7590 09/05/2007 PEARNE & GORDON LLP 1801 EAST 9TH STREET SUITE 1200 CLEVELAND, OH 44114-3108</div>				
			EXAMINER GRAVINI, STEPHEN MICHAEL	
			ART UNIT 3749	PAPER NUMBER
			MAIL DATE 09/05/2007	DELIVERY MODE PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/561,742

Applicant(s)

JONSSON ET AL.

Examiner

Stephen Gravini

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 10 July 2007.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-17 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-17 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

Claims 1,4-13, and 15-17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Gaaloul et al. (US 20020053607). The claims are reasonably and broadly construed, in light of the accompanying specification, to be disclosed by Gaaloul as comprising:

a cabinet **10** having external walls and internal walls, said internal walls defining an interior region for receiving clothes;

a door **14** connected to said cabinet for accessing said interior region, expressly disclosed in paragraph [0024] of that reference;

at least a supporting device for supporting clothes within said interior region expressly disclosed at paragraph.[0010] and [0042];

a ventilator **34**;

water supply means at paragraphs [0016]-[0017];

an ultrasonic nebulizer **24** operatively associated to said water supply means;

wherein the air within said interior region is recirculated by said ventilator through an air duct located between said internal walls and said external walls forming a closed loop with said internal region at paragraphs [0048]-[0073]. Gaaloul also discloses the claimed air duct extending substantially along the whole height of said apparatus as shown in figure 1, . wherein said air duct includes heating means **25** to increase the

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temperature of the air as disclosed in paragraph [0010], wherein said air duct includes filtering means to purify the air from odours and/or undesirable particles at paragraph [0016], wherein said air duct is located on the opposite side of said cabinet in respect to said door as shown in figure 1, wherein the recirculating airflow within said interior region (4) is oriented in a substantially vertical direction also as shown in figure 1, wherein said air duct comprises an air intake port located at the top of said interior region and an air outlet port located at the bottom of said interior region again as shown in figure 1, wherein said air intake port and said air outlet port are covered by a protective grate as disclosed in paragraph [0032], wherein said air outlet port contains at least a part of said pocket as disclosed in paragraph [0029], wherein said pocket is associated to a conveyor which directs at least a part of the air flowing from said air duct into said pocket and allows said air mixed with the mist produced by the ultrasonic nebulizer to escape from said pocket accessing said interior region wherein said conveyor comprises a central body shaped as a frustum of a cone and at least a tubular member protruding therefrom as shown in figure 3, wherein the working conditions of said apparatus are driven by an electronic control system wherein said cabinet has a structure adapted to be built-in at paragraph [0037], wherein said ultrasonic nebulizer (9) introduces nebulized water into said interior region as shown in figure 3.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

Claims 2-3 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gaaloul in view of Cassella (US 6,745,496). Gaaloul discloses the claimed invention as rejected above, except for the claimed water supply means comprising a removable

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water reservoir feeding a pocket hydraulically connected thereto wherein said pocket is associated with a water level measuring device to monitor the absence of water inside said removable water reservoir. Cassella, another clothed treating apparatus discloses a water supply means comprising a removable water reservoir feeding a pocket hydraulically connected thereto wherein said pocket is associated with a water level measuring device to monitor the absence of water inside said removable water reservoir at column 2 line 50 through column 3 line 2. It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art to combine the teachings of Gaaloul, with the water supply means comprising a removable water reservoir feeding a pocket hydraulically connected thereto wherein said pocket is associated with a water level measuring device to monitor the absence of water inside said removable water reservoir, disclosed in Cassella, for the purpose of efficiently and conveniently supplying, exchanging, and monitoring a water level supply in order to optimize laundry treating means.

Claim 14 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gaaloul. Gaaloul discloses the claimed invention as rejected above, except for the claimed centrifugal ventilator. It would have been an obvious matter of design choice to one skilled in the art to provide a centrifugal ventilator, since the ventilator of Gaaloul would perform the claimed invention, regardless of the type of ventilator used.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-17 have been considered but are moot in view of the new grounds of rejection.

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Conclusion

Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the date of this final action.

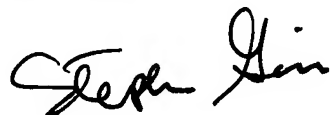
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Stephen Gravini whose telephone number is 571 272 4875. The examiner can normally be reached on normal weekday business hours (east coast time).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Steven B. McAllister can be reached on 571 272 6785. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

SMG
August 6, 2007

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Stephen H. Lin". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.